

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 7-28 remain pending in the application and have been allowed. Claims 1-3 and 7-28 have not been amended herein, thus remaining in condition for allowance.

The abstract of the disclosure is proposed to be amended herein to correspond more closely to allowed Claim 1. These changes were discussed with the Examiner in a telephone conversation on December 12, 2005, and it was indicated in that conversation that the changes would likely be entered. The changes are not proposed to be made for any reasons related to patentability.

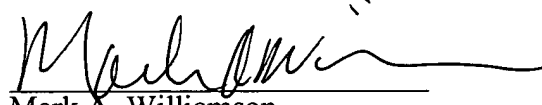
It is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendments do not add new matter and do not affect the allowability of the application. The need for the proposed changes was only recently discovered and their entry would not place undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office.

Favorable consideration and entry hereof are earnestly solicited.

Application No. 09/976,094

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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